FBIS DAILY REPORT

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ARAB INVESTORS TO DISCUSS SOUTHERN CONE PROJECTS

PY1718267 Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1900 GMT 17 Oct 78 PY

[Text] Chile will participate in a meeting with Arab countries. Middle East countries are planning to make investments in Latin America.

Economist Rolf Luedhers, a member of one of the legislative commissions of the government, left for Madrid to participate in this important meeting for Chile. He talked with Onda Noticiosa at Pudahuel airport.

[Begin Luedhers recording] The meeting is to discuss possible Arab investments in Chile thanks to the United Nations, which joined a group of Arabs with a group of Latin Americans to discuss investment projects. [end recording]

The meeting will include countries in the Southern Cone, such as Paraguay, Uruguay, Argentina and Chile. Arlabank officials will also attend the meeting. Chile will present some proposals which may interest Arab countries.

[Begin Luedhers recording] Chile will present three projects: One is a second tower next to the Sheraton San Cristobal Hotel, the other a small copper mine and the third [words indistinct]. [end recording]

The meeting in the Spanish capital will last 3 days.

OFFICIAL DISCUSSES RENEWED TRADE TALKS WITH U.S.

FBIS71229Y Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1908 GMT 16 Oct 78 FT

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 16 Oct (NA)--Juan Dumas, under secretary for international economic negotiations, stated here today that one of the main objectives of the resumption of deliberations by the joint Argentine-U.S. commission on trade and economic affairs is to formalize talks on those questions and to establish regular meetings once every 2 years. After a 12-year recess, the commission began meeting in Washington today. The Argentine delegation is headed by Guillermo Walter Klein, secretary for economic programming and coordination.

Dumas said "several different topics will be dealt with at the meeting. The situation of a series of Argentine products which have had difficulties entering the U.S. market will be analyzed and discussed for the purpose of resolving those difficulties." Dumas added that "although informally, the progress of negotiations under GATT and that of bilateral Argentine-U.S. negotiations regarding GATT will also be taken up."

Commenting on aspects of economic relations between the United States and Argentina, Dumas said that "in fact the trade balance deficit is not the cause of our concern, but the decreasing amount of Argentine exports in the total of U.S. imports is--over the last 10 or 15 years it has been reduced to one-third of what it was."

Massera on U.S. Trip

FBIS71605Y Buenos Aires LA RAZON in Spanish 14 Oct 78 p 4 FT

[Excerpts] Adm Emilio Eduardo Massera (Ret) returned today from a trip to Venezuela, Santo Domingo and the United States. At Ezeiza International Airport he asserted that "according to some U.S. officials, while they in no way wish to interfere in Argentine internal policy, relations are not as good as they could be and this is because of certain interpretations of specific topics." He added that "I believe relations have improved fairly well, but they are still experiencing difficult times."

He added: "In the United States I gave talks at international institutions such as Johns Hopkins basically in order to clarify that country's ideas regarding Argentina and vice versa. I believe these trips, like those of any citizen, serve to clarify things and that day by day, although very slowly, there is improvement with regard to understanding of our problem." Regarding a question about his next political steps, he answered with a smile: "Politics are suspended," and added: "On Monday I am travelling to Europe and I have scheduled a more delicate, organized trip based more on common agreement. I will visit four or five countries and I will try to clarify our position."

Regarding his reported remark made abroad that Argentina is in a position to take the Malvinas Islands, he declared: "Our country has always been in a position to do so. This does not mean that the negotiations on a solution to the disagreement will be interrupted. What I asserted, answering some questions, is that from a military point of view the taking of the Malvinas Islands will not require any great effort by our armed forces. But Argentina is continuing with its negotiating plan until the problem is resolved through other measures." Regarding his future activities, he answered: "I am asked how I am going to program my non-political career. I believe, as I have said many times before, the country is about to experience a new stage--and not through Admiral Massera but through all the people, who in one way or another wish to express their ideas. This is a positive factor for the process."

ENVOY TO PRC PREDICTS EXPANDED TRADE TIES

FBIS72304Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1905 GMT 17 Oct 78 FT

[Text] Buenos Aires, 17 Oct, (TELAM)--The Argentine ambassador to the PRC has stated in Peking that Argentine exports might reach $150 million next year, and that Argentine private companies are making a tremendous effort and making constant visits to China.

In a statement made to a radio reporter in this capital, the ambassador said the result of the visit made by Economy Minister José Martínez de Hoz and his delegation has been excellent thanks to the great effort which made possible the signing of several agreements, including ones on the purchase of wheat and cotton, maritime transport and technical and scientific cooperation. All these agreements open the doors for future negotiations which are quite favorable to developing Argentine exports, he said.

He stated: "China is a country which Argentina is observing with great interest, especially in the commercial, economic and technical fields, because we have much to offer them and they know that what we offer them has no political ties, but only cooperation among peoples." He also said that the Chinese, being highly pragmatic, recognize and know perfectly well which countries can provide them with what they need and they will go to them, and Argentina is among those which can provide useful items in many fields.

Finally, referring to the presence of a young Argentine volleyball team in that country, he said they have come to compete without regard to the outcome and to show the chivalry of Argentines in sports. He stated that they have not come in the spirit of winning games but of learning and of toughening with very good Chinese teams, and so far the result has been very favorable to a friendly sports exchange between the two nations, because they tied 2-2 in the first series. These remarks were made to journalist Oleaco Maggeri, Radio Belgrano information service's special correspondent.

BACKGROUND TO DECISION ON RIGHTS BODY VISIT REVEALED

FY171503Y Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1110 GMT 17 Oct 78 FY

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 17 Oct (NA)--The Foreign Ministry has reported that the government answered favorably the request by the OAS Inter-American Human Rights Commission to visit the country on a date which "will be agreed upon" by both parties. In commenting on the official announcement yesterday, authorized sources from San Martin Palace asserted that the Argentine Government has "taken the step" awaited in Washington to improve its relations with the Carter administration. This has also been affecting Argentina's relations with other governments.

The sources recalled that U.S. authorities were the first to take a step toward a warm-up in relations by unblocking the granting of an Eximbank loan for an Argentine firm which wanted to participate in the Yacyreta Dam project. They also explained that the announcement of an official visit to Buenos Aires by Viron Vaky, U.S. assistant secretary for inter-American affairs, and a subsequent denial of this visit was interpreted here as Washington's reaction to the lack of response by the Argentine authorities.

That "missing link" in the chain of gestures and attitudes represented, to U.S. State Department officials, reticence on the part of the Argentine Government in agreeing to a visit by the OAS commission to confirm respect for human rights at the site itself.

Under these circumstances, San Martin Palace yesterday announced the Argentine Government's favorable response to the IHRC's interest in visiting the country, referred to the invitation already made, and proved Argentina's interest in a dialog. Palace spokesmen believe that the sure possibility of improving the government's image in America and, consequently, in the entire western world, as well as their desire to show the country's true situation without fear, are the main points of the foreign policy strategy.

A report datelined Washington and published here today, citing diplomatic spokesmen, reveals that the IHRC visit will probably take place during the second 4 months of 1979.

III CORPS COMMANDER OPTIMISTIC ON BORDER SITUATION

FY171730Y Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1132 GMT 17 Oct 78 FY

[Excerpts] Mendoza, 17 Oct (NA)--Gen Luciano Menendez, commander of III Corps, will observe military maneuvers in the Andean foothills through Saturday. He referred to these as "yearly training exercises, not a warlike mobilization," which should not be considered of "an extraordinary nature."

Prodded by journalists, the commander expressed optimism as to the possibilities of reaching an agreement on the ongoing border dispute with the Chilean Government. He said: "As long as negotiations are underway and the problems are treated earnestly, there is a possibility that the two brotherly countries will reach an agreement advantageous to both."

He did not elaborate on the current status of the negotiations because he has no information except what is in the newspapers, but he said: "We should be optimistic, because we should trust that commonsense and traditional Chilean-Argentine friendship will prevail on this occasion."

'UNUSUAL EARTH MOVEMENT' ALARMS MENDOZA AREA

PY172228Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1325 GMT 17 Oct 78 PY

[Text] Mendoza, 17 Oct (TELAM)--An unusual earth movement had been recorded in a department east of Mendoza, causing alarm in the neighborhood and cracks in some walls, but no casualties.

This unusual phenomenon, which was reported today by the local paper LOS ANDES, took place Friday at 1925 in the department of Santa Rosa, 79 km east of here.

It was detected by residents of the recently built Arenas Segundo neighborhood, who said that the earth movement was accompanied by noisy underground explosions.

They said they first thought it was a seismic movement recorded in the provincial territory, but that they finally confirmed that it took place only in that small sector.

They also explained that no underground work is being carried out in that area, not even mining, and that nothing similar has ever been recorded in that department.

BRIEFS

AIR-TO-AIR PRACTICE--Mar del Plata--Forces from the Tandil military airbase are carrying out antiaircraft exercises on the coast of Camet Park with air-to-air practice using a C-47 as the target. These practices will continue until 23 October. [Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 17 Oct 78 PY]

GEOPHYSICS COURSE--Formosa--The first regional and international geophysics course has been inaugurated, headed by Formosa Governor Juan Carlos Colombo. Paraguayan Defense Minister Marcial Samaniego also attended the inauguration, heading a delegation to the event. [Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 17 Oct 78 PY]

POLITICAL PARTIES T ABANDON DIALOG WITH GOVERNMENT

FT1802067 La Paz Radio Panamericana Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 18 Oct 78 FT

[Text] Bolivian opposition parties held a meeting today during which they decided not to attend the last round of the government-sponsored dialog. This dialog was launched a few weeks ago, with the support of some parties and the opposition of others, in order to step up the democratization process in line with the government plan to return this basic right to the people. The suspension of dialog was announced to Radio Panamericana by (Armando Morales Gomez), representative of the Revolutionary Front of the Left [FRI], who indicated that during the meeting the party representatives had carefully analyzed the recent statements of Interior Minister Faustino Rico Toro which, far from clearing up the current political situation of the country, raised some doubts about the speed of the democratization process. [recorded portion indistinct]

The FRI representative indicated that the government-sponsored dialog is not conducted seriously and because of this no concrete decisions have been made so far. The meeting of opposition parties was attended by representatives of the Christian Democratic Party, of the Democratic Alliance of National Revolution [ADRN], and the FRI. [recorded passage indistinct]

Among other things, (Armando Morales Gomez) indicated that the Bolivian people must be given detailed information about the military preparations underway in Argentina and Chile, preparations which are causing a great deal of concern. The nation's foreign policy must not be managed secretly by the high command of the armed forces in order to avoid repeating the mistakes made in the handling of the maritime problem. [recorded passage indistinct] Finally, (Armando Morales Gomez) stated that in order to implement joint action between opposition parties the meeting decided to invite the Democratic and Popular Unity Front to participate in the decision making.

According to information released to Radio Panamericana, the opposition parties will issue a communique on the points of agreement among them within the next few hours. [recorded passage indistinct]

It appears that Paz Estenssoro's ADRN is proposing the creation of a center-left political front which would initially include the Christian Democratic Party and the FRI.

PEREDA, VIDELA WILL MEET AT BORDER 25 OCTOBER

FT1901137 La Paz Radio Cruz del Sur Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 17 Oct 78 FT

[Text] Foreign Ministry sources reported today that President Pereda Asbun, who will meet his Argentine counterpart Jorge Rafael Videla on 25 October, will travel to the city of Pocitos [site of the meeting] accompanied by the ministers of transport and communications, energy and hydrocarbons, foreign affairs, and interiors. This means that the summit meeting will be attended by Ricardo Anaya, Alfredo Franco Guachalla, Jaime Larrazabal and Faustino Rico Toro, as well as Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Marcelo Quiroga Iriarte.

According to the same source, Pereda and Videla will dedicate a bridge over the Pilcomayo River in the city of Pocitos, located on the border between Argentina and Bolivia. Later the two presidents and their retinues will go to Yacuiba, where a luncheon in their honor will be held. At the end of the meeting Pereda and Videla will sign a joint declaration which will be drafted by the Argentine and Bolivian foreign ministries. The encounter will be followed closely by journalists from the two countries.

ITAMARATY UPSET BY U.S. CONGRESS ACTION ON TEXTILES

FY180249Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0110 GMT 18 Oct 78 FY

[Text] Brasilia, 17 Oct (AFP)--The Brazilian Government today criticized several trade measures adopted by the U.S. Congress, especially the withdrawal of textile products from the list of products which are the subject of multilateral negotiations in Geneva.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman stated: "We hope the U.S. executive branch will veto that congressional measure in accordance with its liberal trade policy."

The same source added that practically speaking the multilateral negotiations have been blocked. These unilateral measures will lead to other similar measures and will promote protectionism.

Last year overall Brazilian exports of textiles totaled some $(75) million, and most of those sales were to the United States or to the EEC.

ARGENTINE-BRAZILIAN NAVAL MANEUVERS BEGIN

FY180056Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0020 GMT 18 Oct 78 FY

[Text] Rio de Janeiro, 17 Oct (TELAM-EFE)--The Argentine and Brazilian navies today began joint maneuvers called "Operation Bilateral 78" off the southern Brazilian coast. The exercises, which will extend through Thursday, include surface actions, antisubmarine and antiaircraft operations and electronic warfare tactics. Twelve warships and two submarines from the two navies will participate.

At the end of the operations the Argentine ships will anchor off Rio de Janeiro and the squadron chief, Capt Ewalter Jose Colombo, will be the special guest at several events organized by the Brazilian Naval Ministry.

GEISEL, STROESSNER TO ATTEND ITAIPU EVENT

FY180159Y Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 17 Oct 78 FY

[Text] Presidents Ernesto Geisel and Alfredo Stroessner of Paraguay will watch on Friday the diversion of the Parana River near Foz do Iguacu. This event will permit construction of the Itaipu hydroelectric dam on the depth of the Parana River. President elect Gen Joao Baptista de Figueiredo will also be present at the ceremony. Both presidents Stroessner and Geisel will talk about the importance of the project for both countries and will attend the signing of contracts between Itaipu Binational and the Itaipu Electromechanical Consortium for the purchase of 18 turbogenerator units.

FIGUEIREDO MEETS GEISEL; TO REVIEW AI-5

FY171235Y Sao Paulo Cadeia Verde Amarela in Portuguese 1000 GMT 17 Oct 78 FY

[Text] President Ernesto Geisel met yesterday with President-elect Joao Baptista Figueiredo for 50 minutes at the Planalto Palace. General Figueiredo arrived at the palace accompanied by his aides, Gen Danilo Venturini, Col Paiva Pacheco and Said Farhat. General Figueiredo also stopped on the fourth floor of the palace to see Gen Golbery do Couto e Silva, chief of the Civilian Household; Gen Morais Rego, chief of the Military Household; and Gen Otavio Aguiar de Medeiros, chief of the National Intelligence Service.

According to information obtained in Brasilia, punishments meted out under AI-5 will be reviewed as part of the proposal for reconciliation made by the president-elect in his acceptance speech last Sunday night. To implement this proposal, General Figueiredo would like to work out some understanding between his government and some sectors of the opposition.

GOVERNMENT MAY TIGHTEN PRESS LAW DUE TO CHARGES

PY1802047Y Porto Alegre Radio Guaiba in Portuguese 0200 GMT 18 Oct 78 PY

[Text] A high-ranking source from Planalto Palace has revealed that the tougher press law especially by increasing fines, could be a government weapon against the wave of corruption charges aimed at high-ranking officials of the federal administration.

The source indicated that the studies to review law No 5250, which controls the freedom of expression and information, will be stepped up.

QUESTIONS RAISED ON FIGUEIREDO RECONCILIATION PLAN

PY1714207Y Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 16 Oct 78 p 10 PY

[Editorial "First Proposal"]

[Excerpts] General Joao Baptista Figueiredo proposed a national reconciliation in his first speech as president-elect. After 10 years of arbitrary rule in which an authoritarian regime held the country's political activities on a leash, stifled the country's economy and corrupted its customs, that proposal is, first of all, a relief.

However, the proposal in the general's speech--which lent significance to a speech which was rather poor in program guidelines--immediately raises the need to clarify the meaning of, and the reason for, reconciliation, as well as the manner in which it is to be brought about.

First of all, reconciliation implies the dismantling of the voracious and centralized state which intrudes into the national economy, taking over obviously private endeavors. Reconciliation means giving back to the country its federative regime: returning to the states their political and administrative autonomy, which has been tied up by a centralized dictatorship which imposes taxes in a disorganized and even corrupt manner from its seat in Brasilia. Of necessity, reconciliation must involve returning to the Brazilian citizen his fundamental right to vote, allowing the creation of new political parties, and understanding that this country has three branches of government which must respect one another.

There will not be real reconciliation in this country without a gradual process of sincere amnesty, an amnesty which the government must not consider a pardon and the beneficiaries must not consider a sign of weakness. Just as reconciliation calls for tolerance, it must never, in the new political climate so created, imply tolerance of violations of the nation's laws, and even less must it imply violations of the citizen's rights.

As of now, this reconciliation process demands that all the country's political forces act on the premise that the maintenance of unity within the armed forces is essential. Anybody who hopes to creat division within the armed forces will be an enemy of reconciliation and an instigator of confrontations. On several occasions in Brazil's history, military unity was the factor which made possible the reconciliation of the forces split apart by hot-heads' conflicts.

Therefore, the first measure to reconcile all the country's constructive elements should be to pay attention to the 15 November elections and to cast the best possible vote. This is important, because only the electoral results will provide the necessary information to evaluate the influence of political positions. These results should enable General Figueiredo to form a government in line with the basic tendencies which the ballots will reveal. The formation of a government reflecting the will of the people will set in motion the process of reconciliation which has been frustrated for 10 years precisely because the government did not respect the will of the people.

BRIEFS

ARMS TO 3/ ARMY--A Lloyd Brasileiro vessel arrives from the Port of Rio Grande today carrying a cargo of guns for the 3d Army. Streets near the field artillery garrison, where 13 semitrailers are waiting to bring the weapons to Porto Alegre, have been barricaded. The area is under strict control and patrolled by armed soldiers who do not even allow pedestrians to pass. [Text] [Porto Alegre Radio Gaucha in Portuguese 1545 GMT 17 Oct 78 PY]

COURT QUESTIONS PERNANDEZ IN LETELIER CASE

FF1812257Y Santiago Chile Cadena Agricultura in Spanish 2300 GMT 17 Oct 78 FF

[Text] Capt Armando Fernandez Larios, who is involved in an extradition request by the United States, was interrogated in the court building this afternoon. There were many policemen in the area. The officer was questioned by the president of the Supreme Court himself, Israel Borquez. His private secretary, (Ramon Pena), acted as his clerk. Captain Fernandez Larios was taken to the court from the military hospital and was immediately taken inside the Supreme Court president's office. The other two officers who are to be interrogated by the court president are Gen Manuel Contreras (ret) and Col Pedro Espinoza.

CUBILLOS RECEIVES CORDIAL WELCOME IN PEKING

FF1714067Y Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 17 Oct 78 FF

[Text] Chilean Foreign Minister Hernan Cubillos was very cordially welcomed in Peking early (?this) morning. He was welcomed at the airport by Huang Hua, PRC foreign minister; Wang Hai-jung, vice minister for American affairs; and important functionaries of the Ministries of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations with Foreign Countries. Newsmen from Chinese and international agencies were also at the airport, despite the 5-and-1/2-hour delay of the Swissair flight, which was originally scheduled to arrive at 1900 yesterday. The Chilean foreign minister's visit to China has aroused great interest because of the prospects for important bilateral agreements on trade and the recent Moscow bloc attacks against the PRC and Chile because of their renewed rapprochement.

The foreign minister and his delegation--made up of Roberto Kelly, chief of the National Planning Office, Gen Cesar Covarrubias, chief of the Presidential Staff; and Ricardo Claro, (Manuel Casanueva) and (Fernando Perez), advisers and secretary in the Foreign Ministry--will begin their talks with Minister Huang Hua and his advisers tomorrow. Functionaries of the Chilean Embassy, headed by (Julio Barrenechea), will also participate in these talks. (Barrenechea) is replacing Ambassador Sergio Maldonado, who is sick but has been recuperating since yesterday.

The Chilean delegation will visit the imperial museum in Peking today, and tonight the members will be honored with a banquet in the Great Hall of the People.

Commentary on Visit

FF1712357Y Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1045 GMT 17 Oct 78 FF

["Rafael Fleischer Program" commentary, read by Carlos Prieto]

[Text] Today marked the beginning of the official visit of Foreign Minister Hernan Cubillos to the PRC. Cubillos is heading a delegation intended to strengthen even further the bonds between the two countries. Right now there is active commercial, cultural and sports exchange between Chile and the PRC. In addition, in the field of foreign policy, there are points of agreement in denunciation of the action of the imperialistic great powers which threaten Third World nations.

Both the Santiago and Peking governments have designated the USSR as the main threat to peace in the world. Its socialist-imperialistic offensive against the nations of Africa and Latin America is a very clear example of the use of violence, subversion and force to conquer weaker nations and turn them into satellites of a system based on political influence and police terrorism.

Foreign Minister Cubillos is carrying a personal message and invitation from President Augusto Pinochet for the president of the PRC, Hua Kuo-feng, to pay an official visit to Chile soon, in the company of the PRC's foreign minister, Huang Hua. In this way Chile seeks to establish a strong bond between Asia and Latin America through the governments of Santiago and Peking. Both presidents Augusto Pinochet and Hua Kuo-feng have reasserted their support for the principle of self-determination of peoples and their solidarity with the Third World in confronting challenges of underdevelopment, technological dependence and imperialist aggression. These principles are threatened today by the disturbing action of great political and economic interests which seek to interfere in the domestic affairs of developing nations, to set up their rules and guidelines, and to tyrannize their peoples in order to favor the interest at stake. This has brought mankind to the verge of a new and extraordinary world war.

Only by decreasing imperialistic appetites can we insure world peace and stability. This is the reason the Chilean people view the progress of our relations with the PRC favorably. These relations represent the unity of two nations separated by the immensity of the Pacific Ocean, but united in the struggle to dignify and guarantee the independence of Third World nations.

MERINO FORESEES PEACEFUL SOLUTION OF BEAGLE CHANNEL ISSUE

FF1718587Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1515 GMT 17 Oct 78 FY

[Text] Punta Arenas, 17 Oct (AFP)--Chilean Navy Commander Adm Jose Toribio Merino said here today that the Argentine and Chilean people must remain calm, because nothing will go wrong between the two nations. Admiral Merino, who is a member of the Chilean military junta, revealed that the two countries are in permanent contact to insure that the continuing dispute over the Beagle Channel can be solved peacefully, without resorting to any military confrontation. Admiral Merino is making a 10-day visit through the southern zone of Chile, 2,500 km south of Santiago.

3 November Deadline Firm

FF1722567Y Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1630 GMT 17 Oct 78 FY

[Text] Chile does not wish to extend the deadlines of the negotiations of Mixed Commission No 2. This comment was made by diplomatic observers with regard to a statement made by Argentine Foreign Minister Oscar Montes. The Argentine foreign minister said yesterday that the deadline does not mean that negotiations cannot be continued with Chile and that dialog is always open to clear up the problems encountered by Mixed Commission No 2. Observers said that this possibility has not even been considered in the current negotiations and it is believed that the 3 November deadline is final. The negotiators are in permanent session as shown by the meetings held in Santiago and this weekend in Vina del Mar. The last round of negotiations will begin in Santiago next Monday.

It was also reported that the Chilean-Argentine Permanent Mixed Border Commission will begin meeting in Buenos Aires next Thursday. This bilateral commission was established in 1941 and meets alternately in Chilean and Argentine territory once a year. The Chilean delegation headed by the deputy director [words indistinct] will leave for Buenos Aires tomorrow. The meetings will be held until 28 October. This technical commission is in charge of enforcing the 1941 protocol which includes the reexamination of border markers, checking differences and fixing the exact coordinates.

During the meetings in Buenos Aires the commission will review the works carried out during 1977 and 1978 and will prepare a work plan for 1979. [passage indistinct]

[Paris AFP in Spanish at 2031 GMT on 17 October reports that "Chilean officials explained that the work of this commission will be carried out independently of the talks which the two countries are holding regarding the border conflict on the Beagle Channel."]

CHILE-BOLIVIA BORDER PANEL TO MEET NEXT MONTH

FF1722352Y Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1630 GMT 17 Oct 78 FF

[Text] The Chilean-Bolivian Mixed Border Commission will meet in the first half of November 1978. In answer to a suggestion made by the Bolivian Government, our country has invited Bolivia to a meeting of this commission.

The director of the Foreign Ministry's border demarcation department, [name indistinct], said that Chile is now awaiting a Bolivian answer. He said that there is a need to find a solution to the problem, that this problem cannot be left unattended. He was obviously referring to the controversial border marker No 38. According to Bolivian officials, the border marker was moved by Chile [words indistinct]. The cities proposed for the meeting are Arica and (Chuchichalama). The final decision is in the hands of Bolivia.

PINOCHET REVIEWS EFFORTS TO CARRY OUT INSTITUTIONAL CHANGE

FF1802220Y Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1630 GMT 17 Oct 78 FF

[Excerpts] President Augusto Pinochet said today that the government will continue to exercise its strong and vigorous authority in order to carry out its plans. The president made this statement this morning during a ceremony on the fifth anniversary of the National Women's Organization.

[Begin Pinochet recording] In my last presidential message in September, I had the opportunity to explain to the country the profound and important progress made in the last 5 years of military government. The entire population can now see the noticeable and substantial progress made in Chile after our having inherited a country in the worst political, institutional, economic and social disaster in its history; a country worn out by anarchy, disorder, moral chaos, political chicanery and demagogy. [end recording]

The president added that the job has not been easy and has demanded the cooperation of many disinterested citizens who are willing to make sensible progress along the path established, without haste and without giving in to petty or biased foreign and internal pressures which have sought and are still attempting to change the course of this progress.

President Pinochet reiterated that the basis of this process lies in the gradual nature of progress toward a new institutionality aimed at keeping us away from any extreme, whether immobility or haste. He said that those who intentionally want to see us in either of these two extremes have not yet understood the current situation.

[Begin Pinochet recording] These people should understand that this new institutionality, gradually achieved, will be their graveyard and that is why they feel desperate regarding our progress. They are aghast and amazed at how surely and decisively the government is moving toward a creative normality which is going to give us a new democracy at the exclusive service of a prosperous and just free society. [end recording]

The chief of state also said that the government wants a new social order in which everyone will be able to live in harmony, respecting each other's rights and duties in peace and tranquillity, which will guarantee freedom to every citizen of this land.

[Begin Pinochet recording] In order to carry out the work we have began and to insure its success, the government I head will continue to exercise its strong and vigorous authority without ever failing the supreme mandate of history or the will of its citizens [applause] or giving concessions to minorities which are desperately trying to stop us from reaching the objective of giving back our dear Chile its greatness and prosperity. [end recording]

The chief of state ended his speech by reiterating his appreciation of Chilean women for their patriotic and unbiased cooperation, and by asking them to renew their commitment of honor to the country and to renew their efforts for the good of the community.

BRIEFS

PRIESTS ACCUSE POLICE--Three priests charged today that the police raided their houses in the Maipu district of Santiago. The priests charged that the raid lasted 3 hours and that the police did not show any warrant. The priests identified themselves as (Jose Aldunate Pelayon), (Ignacio Vergara Thome) and (Gonzalo Aguirre Ode). [Santiago Chile Cadena Agricultura in Spanish 2300 GMT 18 Oct 78 FT]

MAGALLANES GAS COMPANY--The National Petroleum Enterprise [ENAP] signed an agreement yesterday creating an enterprise for the installation and operation of a liquid gas plant in Magallanes Province. This enterprise, Chilean Gas, Ltd., will be formed by the Chilean Oil Company [COPEC], (Alco-Chile)--a subsidiary of the U.S. Atlantic (Richfield) Company--Air Products and Chemicals, Inc., and ENAP. The Magallanes natural gas deposits require an investment of $300 million, which will be repaid in full within 2 years after the gas from Magallanes begins providing Chile with earnings of $200 million a year, beginning in 1984. The gas plant, which will be located in Cabo Negro, 25 km north of Punta Arenas, will produce nearly 7 million cubic meters of gas a day, which will be transported by special ships to all parts of the world. [Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish at 1145 GMT 5 Oct 78 FT]

PRESIDENT TURBAY HEARTS INTERVIEW ON OAS, NICARAGUA

PA1903587 Bogota EL ESPECTADOR in Spanish 15 Oct 78 p 15-a PA

[Text] President Julio Cesar Turbay Ayala has denounced the deep and serious crisis in the Organization of American States and said that the American panorama is that of one great military garrison with only a few democracies. Turbay described the OAS as a "sterile and useless" forum.

The president spoke on the "Reportaje" television program directed by Juan Guillermo Rios. This same program has also interviewed the presidents of Costa Rica and Nicaragua, Rodrigo Carazo and Anastasio Somoza respectively, about the crisis in the Central American region.

President Carazo said that the OAS today is very demoralized. President Somoza in turn praised the OAS attitude and, after criticizing Colombia's position on the Nicaraguan issue, invited Turbay Ayala to Nicaragua "so that he can see for himself that we are a civilized nation developing peacefully." Some of President Turbay's statements on the Caracol television program follow:

[Question] Mr President, just what is Colombia's position regarding the dramatic situation of our brothers in Nicaragua?

[Answer] The Colombian position is well known. It was defined in a note which we sent to UN President Indalecio Lievano Aguirre jointly with Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez. In this note we presented the thesis that it was absolutely necessary to protect human rights, which had been violated in the sister Republic of Nicaragua. Some people mistakenly pretended to believe that we were trying to usurp the regional organization's jurisdiction in order to analyze the political problem presented to the OAS for its consideration. However, we were really defending human rights--which can be placed under simultaneous UN and OAS protection. Our point of view on the matter is that we must prevent new acts of genocide in Nicaragua and prevent the suffering of an innocent people who have been subjected to the most unspeakable abuses. We, of course, respect the non-intervention principle and our attitude by no means represents intervention in the domestic affairs of a third country. Our deep concern is for the human rights violations in Nicaragua which have moved the entire world.

[Question] Mr President, General Somoza describes your attitude and that of Colombia as very strange and unusual. He says that you have been misled by reports from other nations.

[Answer] The Nicaraguan president is naturally not aware of the information received by the Colombian Government on the matter. He presumably believes that our information has been supplied by the president of Venezuela. But this is not true. Colombia has received direct information and has proof that human rights were clearly violated in that country as evidenced by the thousands of deaths and injuries resulting from the clash of the Nicaraguan army and defenseless citizens trying to establish a democracy in Nicaragua.

[Question] Mr President, the Costa Rican president told us that as a result of his painful position regarding the Nicaraguan case, the OAS is in an increasingly detrimental position and its morale is very low. What is your opinion?

[Answer] I do not believe that is the reason behind it. It seems to me that the morale of the OAS has been low for some time. Some measures were taken to restore its energies and revitalize it during the San Jose conference at which amendments were made allowing the countries--without having to violate the OAS position--to have diplomatic relations with Cuba.

There was a rejuvenation of some sort in the OAS, but it later faded and the OAS went back to being the same inefficient and costly machine without solving any problems. This was said by President Lleras in Caracas when he was secretary general of that organization. He said that the OAS would only be what the member countries make of it. Determination and resolution are needed if we are going to return to the OAS the ability to act and its former prestige. So far it does not solve problems or help in any way. The OAS is a more sterile than useful forum.

[Question] Mr President, will Colombia initiate an undertaking with other countries to find a democratic solution to the Nicaraguan problem?

[Answer] Colombia very much desires that democracy will prevail in the hemisphere and that all countries will have democratic structures such as those existing in Colombia and Venezuela. Naturally, there is not much that can be done in this regard outside of creating the purely moral awareness that will make possible the resurgence of democratic institutions. Neither we nor the inter-American system have mechanisms that would allow us, through joint security procedures, to institutionalize democratic governments. Various systems have been tried. For example, the Betancour doctrine was mentioned for some time. It consisted of not having relations with military regimes. President Kennedy's Punta del Este policy was tried. It consisted of giving economic and technical assistance only to democratic governments. In our time we have talked of the defense of human rights, which should be guaranteed in order to receive assistance. However, the truth is that day by day the American panorama is that of a sort of garrison where there are only a few democracies.

However, according to the terms of Resolution 35 of the ninth inter-American conference in Bogota, we have maintained and tried to have relations with all states regardless of their ideology. Nevertheless, we would prefer, as I said before, to have relations only with democratically constituted governments.

TURBAY INTERVIEWED BY CUBAN MAGAZINE 'BOHEMIA'

PA1712Z05Y Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 0000 GMT 17 Oct 78 PA

[Text] President Julio Cesar Turbay Ayala said today that the political climate is right for seeking the end of the U.S. economic blockade against Cuba. Turbay said that the blockade lacks a foundation from a humane point of view and that today it is less hard to seek and find a way to end it, especially when there is less tension in the Cuban and U.S. positions.

In an interview granted to Cuban newsman Luis Baez Hernandez from the magazine BOHEMIA, President Turbay pointed out that the United States has been gradually giving up its imperialist policy and is at the point where the problem of the colonial enclave in Panama has almost been solved. A similar solution could be put forth in regard to the base at Guantanamo which the United States still maintains on the island. Turbay said the time will come when no country will feel that it cannot exercise its sovereignty on any part of its territory.

The possibility of an internal crisis in the Andean Pact was dismissed by President Turbay. In this regard he said: I do not think the Andean Pact is experiencing a crisis. The truth is that all integrationist processes must face difficulties, that only through patience and understanding can be solved [words indistinct].

President Turbay reiterated that Colombia has full sovereignty over its internal affairs. To this effect, he said that none of our actions will be inspired from abroad. President Turbay in his interview to BOHEMIA added that Colombia, which is neither a military nor economic power, will exercise full sovereignty at all times. This he said when asked by newsman Baez if his government would consider the U.S. request to establish a military base in La Guajira as interference in the country's internal affairs.

President Turbay described himself as a ruler of the democratic left. He also said that he respects those supporting more radical ideological views. However, he said that he will not tolerate subversive activities carried out by taking advantage of democratic freedoms.

Finally, he said that relations between Colombia and Cuba are excellent and added that he is in favor of increasing them in all areas. When referring to Fidel Castro, President Turbay said that at a meeting with Castro during an unscheduled landing in Havana he had reached the conclusion that Castro is a person moved by ideals in which he firmly believes. President Turbay added: You can oppose Castro, but you cannot deny his importance.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS MINISTER DISCUSSES NICARAGUA WITH PEREZ

PA1712007Y Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 0000 GMT 17 Oct 78 PA

[Report by Haydee Rosario, Venezolana de Television reporter, from Caracas--recorded]

[Text] The subject of the Venezuelan-Colombian [maritime border] difference was not discussed during the meeting which ended a few minutes ago between Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez and Colombian Foreign Affairs Minister Diego Uribe Vargas at Miraflores Palace. This is what Minister Uribe said at the end of the meeting. He said that during the meeting they continued talks on the human rights defense policy. They also said that they would wait for the outcome of Costa Rica's new charge against Nicaragua submitted to the OAS before resuming a dialog of Latin American foreign ministers on the Nicaragua problem.

Minister Uribe pointed out that, as he said upon his arrival in Venezuela, the subject of the difference between Venezuela and Colombia was not discussed because they preferred on this occasion to consider other problems which concern both countries, such as drug trafficking.

In regard to drug trafficking, Venezuelan Foreign Affairs Minister Simon Alberto Consalvi will go to Bogota in November to sign an agreement on this issue.

President Perez and Minister Uribe also agreed on the need to resume OAS talks on Nicaragua. As mentioned before, this depends upon the outcome at the OAS of Costa Rica's new charges against Nicaragua.

GOVERNMENT MILITARIZES BUS SERVICE IN BOGOTA

PA1802507Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0146 GMT 18 Oct 78 PA

[Text] Bogota, 17 Oct (AFP)--The militarization of bus service was decided upon in this capital tonight as a security measure to guarantee bus service in the city, it was officially announced.

Military men dressed in civilian clothes were driving buses in order to impede the actions of rioters and guarantee transportation for thousands of passengers who live on the outskirts of Bogota.

Many buses were stoned and burned a few days ago to protest against the fare increase approved last week by the government.

Bus service was extensively reduced last night and people had to walk from the downtown area to their homes. According to the authorities, the situation tonight in the capital was absolutely normal.

PEREZ MEETS ARGENTINE ARMY COMMANDER IN CHIEF VIOLA

PA1721111Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0142 GMT 17 Oct 78 PA

[Excerpts] Caracas, 16 Oct (AFP)--General Roberto Viola, Argentine Army commander in chief and member of the military junta of that country, met today with Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez. Viola is on an official visit to Venezuela at the invitation of General Arnaldo Castro Hurtado, general commander of the [Venezuelan] Army.

According to the Argentine commander, during his meeting with Perez they "reviewed matters concerning their bilateral relations as well as other international affairs." The meeting lasted over 1 hour and was held at Miraflores Palace. Viola stressed that Argentina and Venezuela maintain satisfactory relations which "have reached a level of identity that corresponds to that of two sisterly nations."

Viola arrived in Caracas last night. Today he carried out a busy schedule of activities which started with an early visit to the military academy. He was met there by General Castro Hurtado and was honored [words indistinct]. He reviewed the cadet corps and gave a short but emotional speech as he received a replica of the saber used by liberator Simon Bolivar. Viola was accompanied by Gen Luis Marchesinter, 1st commander [jefe primero]; Col Oscar Guerrero, chief of the Department of Plans and Operations of the Argentine Army; and [Argentine] Ambassador Federico Bartel whom he visited the Venezuelan president.

Viola visited Defense Minister Gen Fernando Paredes Bellow and later on, accompanied by his wife, visited Bolivar's birthplace. He will be honored tonight at a gala banquet [words indistinct] of the armed forces.

FRG MINISTER STRESSES GOOD BILATERAL RELATIONS

PA1716491Y Caracas Radio Continente Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 17 Oct 78 PA

[Text] Oil will run out within the not too distant future, German Research and Technology Minister Volker Hauff has announced. He said that in the FRG a number of measures have been undertaken to use energy resources more rationally and reduce energy consumption in general. The German minister said that his country has very good cultural and economic relations with Venezuela. He explained that the FRG wants to increase scientific and technological cooperation with Venezuela.

DPA REPORTS PEREZ ENVISIONS 5-10 PERCENT OPEC PRICE RISE

LD1715227Y Hamburg DPA in German 1504 GMT 17 Oct 78 LD

[Text] Frankfurt--The oil-producing countries will most likely increase oil prices before the end of the year. This is what Venezuelan President Andres Perez told federal Research and Technology Minister Volker Hauff in Caracas. Hauff said today in Frankfurt upon his return from a 4-day visit to Venezuela that the price would be between 5 and 10 percent. Perez emphasized that the planned price increases are being supported by the majority of the OPEC countries. In Hauff's view the coming price rise will be the signal for continuous though moderate price rises in the coming years.

Hauff signed a framework agreement in Caracas on scientific and technological cooperation between the Federal Republic of Germany and Venezuela. According to the minister, cooperation in the application of nuclear energy in Venezuela and tapping of the huge oil reserves in coming years were central to the talks.

PEMEX DENIES NEGOTIATIONS WITH U.S. ON GAS SALES

PA1716537Y Madrid EFE in Spanish 2125 GMT 16 Oct 78 PA

[Excerpts] Mexico City, 16 Oct (EFE)--Mexico has denied that it is holding negotiations with the United States for the sale of gas. The announcement was made here today by the state-owned Mexican Petroleum (PEMEX) enterprise. The enterprise thus denied rumors in the United States that the two countries have resumed talks on the subject. A PEMEX spokesman said any natural gas extracted from our land will be entirely for national consumption according to the program set out this year.

At a news conference Friday in Tijuana, on the U.S. border, President Jose Lopez Portillo stressed that Mexico no longer has this volume of gas available.

A PEMEX spokesman said that instead of exporting gas, Mexico will release fuel for export for an equal amount of foreign exchange.

Policy Not Discriminatory

PA1719597Y Mexico City International Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 17 Oct 78 PA

[Commentary]

[Text] Mexico has the option at this time of exploiting the real situation and of taking advantage, in the most convenient manner and with independence, of the opportunities provided by its oil wealth. Therefore, in exercise of its rights, it will freely place its fuel on those markets which are most advantageous for the country. The policy that has been adopted in this regard by the government and Petroleos Mexicanos is nondiscriminatory and it rejects pressure from anyone. The policy simply seeks to obtain the best advantage for Mexico as an exporter and importer. Therefore, sales will not be refused to anyone as long as commitments do not exceed Mexican surpluses.

The possibility of placing Mexican oil on the markets of Japan, France, and other countries is not intended to result in a denial of sales to other potential buyers, whether powerful or not, but rather reflects the desire to diversify our markets and insure the best conditions of reciprocal cooperation and so forth.

Undoubtedly, there exist what are usually called natural markets for our oil production, but the affordability of prices on both sides must be taken into account without any difficulties that might arise being taken as an indication of discriminatory attitudes on our part.

PRESIDENT COMMENTS ON AMNESTY LAW RESULTS

PA1714477 Mexico City International Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 17 Oct 78 PA

[Text] President Jose Lopez Portillo issued an appeal to all dissident factions and ideological groups to demand compliance with the general amnesty law approved by the congress, and asked universities to open their doors to persons of all persuasions who are courageous enough to face up to the stage of modernization of our country.

In a brief statement, which was not provided for in the program of activities during his working tour of Mexico City, the president said the promise has been kept to open democratic opportunities to all tendencies which have exercised their rights at the ballot boxes and in the democratic struggle.

PRESIDENT CONFIRMS CREATION OF [illegible] COUNCIL

PA1721947 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 17 Oct 78 pp 2, 12 PA

[Text] In a brief but significant visit to the Planning and Economic Policy Ministry, President Aristides Royo said that the National Economic Council will be a consultative council that seeks to give opportunities to all Panamanians." [quotation marks as published]

President Royo indicated that the National Economic Council, which he announced on 11 October and which will be set up in the near future, seeks to provide private enterprise with the means by which it can help generate new ideas, reorient investment in Panama and reactivate the economy so much in need at the present time. It is a way of allowing the participation of appropriate people in the nation's economic decisions, Royo explained.

Referring to some of the measures his government will take, the president said that we will have to tighten our belts. It may be necessary for the budget not only to be kept as it is, but to be cut because of the very hard economic situation we are experiencing.

President Royo pointed out that today, Tuesday, the cabinet will make a detailed study of the problem of the educators. He added that at this time it is necessary to think of all government employees and the real possibilities of our budget. We must talk to the people realistically and sincerely, although this may lead to political or other problems, he said.

He praised the work of the Planning Ministry within the government structure. Royo said this was his first visit to a ministry and that he had chosen this one not because it was close, but because of its importance. He pointed out that this was a career institution--the main proof of which is the appointment of Minister Gonzales and the recent promotion of Abdiel Julio as vice minister.

"We are proud of what the Planning Ministry means and have full confidence in the minister, the vice minister and everyone who works in this institution," Royo said. Later on he pointed out that the Planning Ministry was the institution which had absorbed the best personnel in public administration and that, for this reason, we will always be willing to back it and help it. The Planning Ministry is the heart of public administration.

Royo went to the Planning Ministry along with Presidency Minister Rogelio Fabrega, a former planning legal adviser, and Presidency Vice Minister Eli Abbo. He was also accompanied by Planning Minister Gustavo R. Gonzalez, Vice Minister Abdiel Julio and ministry directors.

COMMENTARY STRONGLY CRITICIZES LEFTISTS IN GOVERNMENT

PA1713327 Panama City Radio Nacar in Spanish 1700 GMT 16 Oct 78 PA

[Commentary by Lucho Pimentel and Tomin Cabezas]

[Excerpts] [Lucho Pimentel] I understand that there is a great problem and that everything is [illegible]. In the first place, I do not know what path this assembly of representatives is taking. In connection with the candidacy of Raul Montenegro there was an extraordinary change in course. We must be loyal to our objectives and our role as social communicators, but these things must be said. We cannot ignore what is going on. Enormous pressure was exerted on the representatives of various sectors of the republic at the very last moment on the day before the assembly of representatives was to meet.

Raul Montenegro was removed. He was a very logical candidate. He was also independent, without any connection to the revolutionary government. Later, Raul Montenegro was singled out because of traitors and bootlickers. As Pedro Ureta Jr says, he had to resign. Why would he want to be secretary to someone other than Raul Montenegro when he was trying to help him. He knows perfectly well what is going on among the present representatives and what took place when they voted for president.

Later, the president of the republic, Dr Aristides Royo, made a series of appointments. First, when he was a candidate, he denied he was a communist. He says he is a Christian and so forth. I have never accused him of being a communist. What is more, I explained here on one occasion that I had never known him to be a communist. It is simply that by a person's actions you will know him.

Now, every time Victor Corrales is mentioned, they term him a progressive democrat--every time he is mentioned! This is a leftist task, a totally communist task within the communist line. He was backed by Dario Gonzales Pitti, a member of the Communist Party. Gerardo Gonzales is mentioned consistently as a communist here in Panama. They were responsible for the confusion and the sancocho [a Panamanian dish] in the assembly. In the shadows--and employing much money--they moved around and worked hard for Raul Montenegro to not be elected representative because he professed an independent line; I would say one of private initiative.

This was the first warning. [Word indistinct] was used as an instrument to divide votes. But this was not the crux of the matter. At the last minute, when they said they had the necessary votes for president, they then began changing course, aligning themselves in both directions and goals with the communist posture. Then they appointed the president of the Democratic Revolutionary Party [PRD]. They appointed Gerardo Gonzales--of the communist line--who will be the pillar of the future government of this nation. He will be the pillar! And he is named there.

Here we have another analysis of the PRD. Then later, after the appointment of the president of the republic, he appointed Ritter as his private secretary. Ritter graduated from communist schools in Yugoslavia. He appointed Solas, he appointed Rodriguez--the one who was minister of government. They all form a part of...and in the Ministry of Government, Adolfo Ahumada.

All of these people--with the exception of Marcelino--Marcelino is a quiet man; Marcelino is a careful man, I would say--all of these elements are part of a line, a marked orientation, a future possibility in which preparations are being made and foundations consolidated for attaining a totally socialist, a totally communist government. These things must be said; must be reported.

Last week, I refrained from talking about these things because you had to have time to think them over carefully and you had to say them. I am making a political analysis of the nation's reality, of what is awaiting all of us Panamanians.

[Tomin Cabezas] Before you go on, Luis, you must stress that among those persons you have mentioned, there is what is called the Politburoes, the troika of the Panamanian Communist Party. Panama is being ruled today by the Communist Party.

[Lucho Pimentel] That is absolutely true. These things should not be. They talk about one thing...and I do not know what they are trying to hide. I tell you, that is why I am not going to the newsmen's union. Many heads also rolled at the Renovacion printing house. Many heads rolled because they did not accept the direction, the marked course of the present government.

The trouble is that one sometimes thinks that things are better than they seem. Then one begins confiding in his pillow and begins to rationalize. One is aware of what is going on. We would have liked not to do this analysis today, but it is necessary. It is necessary to denounce immediately what is taking place. If we do not encourage the unions of this nation, if the Chamber of Commerce and the Panamanian Association of Executives do not begin to open their eyes, we will be facing a government structure that little by little will lead the nation toward a totally socialist, Marxist-Leninist base, which is the line of all of these gentlemen who have just placed themselves in the very heart of the government--the government we have.

In the National Guard, there is talk about this and that. Yes, I am going to mention what I have heard. I am not making any statements of fact. It was being said that they want to retire Colonel Garcia. It would be very bad for Panamanians if he were retired. He is a man of totally democratic ideas.

[Tonin Cabezas] I would say that we must go more deeply into this subject. They are saying he must be retired because of years of service, because there are regulations which must be complied with in the National Guard. If such a system is going to be implemented, I think it would be healthy for the nation if everyone who has served 25 years in the National Guard be retired.

[Lucho Pimentel] To whom are you referring?

[Tonin Cabezas] We must begin with Gen Omar Torrijos Herrera, who has already served for over 25 years. All officers who have served more than 25 years should go. Then the new generation of officers would know that some day, they will be able to advance, and we are going to maintain a correct course. Regulations say they can retire at that age if they want to, but if they do not, they can work up to 30 years.

[Lucho Pimentel] Apparently all of this is conjectural. We are not making factual statements of any kind. People want us to comment on the rumors. This is the rumor. Apparently everything has been settled because Colonel Arauz, Colonel Bellido....

[Tonin Cabezas] Fischer, Ayala, all of this group--they wanted to retire them all.

[Lucho Pimentel] Yes, apparently they also wanted Fischer and Ayala. And then what happened? They also touched Colonel Noriega. Apparently they wanted to promote Roberto Diaz over others who had more seniority in the National Guard. This is what is supposedly occurring in the National Guard. I do not see any problem in this. It is an internal issue. Whatever happened will happen. I do not see any major problem. Our problems are on the other side.

In this country, the problems have always been with persons--the parties, the civilian elements placed in certain posts who do not give credence to the position in which they are placed. But these things do not have major consequences within the military institution. Have they not made other changes? Yes. Boris [Martinez] began here. Now Boris is not here any more, nor are a lot of other people. How many officers are there outside Panama? The nation continues to be sick. The nation still has problems. So, if the military figures are changed at this time, I do not think there will be major changes in public affairs because public affairs are conducted by civilians, by political organizations that do not confront the reality of this nation.

I have said here that the government of General Torrijos has been very clever. These communists whom we are denouncing today, who are entrenched in the highest levels, are there because they know how to conduct themselves, because they have removed from their path those civilians with a so-called democratic spirit, and democratic ideas. They have been thrown aside. They have not even had the intelligence, the ability, the cleverness to break that Peking-Moscow line that is being established in our country because both lines are sustained by student elements and other organizations in this country.

If the adjustments being made within the National Guard are for aligning the posts with the procommunist adjustments there have been in the civilian government, it would be very important and worrisome to the nation's ideals.

[Tomin Cabezas] Of course.

[Lucho Pimentel] It all comes from one line, all from one direction. It comes from the assembly of representatives. It is the famous people's government. It is all very curious. In my opinion, the constitution, as you will see, will not be amended today. They will not approve all the amendments to the constitution today. It is a very complex problem. They may possibly not approve anything today. Perhaps they will let it sleep until they see how far the reorganization of the entire government apparatus goes, what happens with the different political cadres that are being introduced into the republic.

[Tomin Cabezas] The structural reorganization they are trying to implement now in the National Guard is very important because the moves are philosophical and ideological, even though people may not see it that way. There are very definitely personal ambitions in this matter. Above all, there is the political play of philosophies. As you said, things apparently have been settled. But, where? It remains the same. Nobody is leaving.

[Lucho Pimentel] All right then, you fans of Colonel Garcia. We are on the line of the right. We want him to emerge victorious from the current conflict. We support him here, too.

[Tomin Cabezas] People are calling in constantly offering support for Colonel Garcia. They say that he should fight with everything he has because he is the last bastion of democracy in the National Guard.

BRIEFS

NEW COMIP PRESIDENT--The National Council of Private Enterprise, COMIP, last night chose Vladimir de la Rosa, an engineer, as its new president to replace Pedro Rognoni, who resigned to accept a government appointment as general manager of the National Financial Corporation, COFINA. [Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2315 GMT 17 Oct 78 PA]

COSTA RICA

ARREST OF NICARAGUAN NATIONAL GUARDSMEN DENIED

PA1719177 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2224 GMT 16 Oct 78 PA

[Text] San Jose, 16 Oct (ACAN-EFE)--Col Fernando Gutierrez of the Costa Rican Civil Guard has denied reports that three members of the Nicaraguan National Guard were arrested. According to rumors in San Jose, three members of the Nicaraguan army had entered Costa Rican territory to sabotage the powerplant at Canton de La Cruz, near the border. The military said that if this had happened the people would have been informed immediately.

In the meantime, LA NACION newspaper in San Jose said that according to reports by persons living close to the border, the arrests were made. The same sources are afraid that the Nicaraguan National Guard may retaliate in the next few days. The Nicaraguan military recently arrested four persons in Costa Rican territory. Two were Nicaraguans, whose whereabouts are unknown, and two were Costa Ricans, who have since complained that they were tortured.

About 400 Civil Guards continue a clearup operation near the border and in other parts of the Province (department) of Guanacaste to locate possible Nicaraguan Sandinist National Liberation Front camps. The action has led to the capture in the past 2 weeks of 50 guerrillas who were at different locations in Costa Rican territory, at a prudent distance from the border.

NICARAGUAN AIR FORCE HELICOPTER VIOLATES NATIONAL AIRSPACE

PA1719127 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1730 GMT 17 Oct 78 PA

[Excerpt] A Nicaraguan Air Force helicopter has overflown Costa Rican installations at the northern border. Today at 0925 a Nicaraguan Air Force helicopter flew over our country's territory, passing several times over Costa Rican Government installations.

The movements of this helicopter gave rise to some alarm and uneasiness among Costa Rican officials. There was alarm because there is fear of a repetition of last month's attack and there was uneasiness because this was a new violation of our national sovereignty by Nicaraguan aircraft. Eyewitnesses said that while the helicopter was flying over our national territory all that our unarmed Civil Guard did was watch.

EL SALVADOR

PRESIDENT ROMERO HOPES TO ATTEND SPORTS MATCH IN HONDURAS

PA1722114 Paris AFP in Spanish 0413 GMT 17 Oct 78 PA

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 16 Oct (AFP)--Salvadoran President Gen Carlos Humberto Romero has publicly voiced his desire to attend the seventh North [presumably American], Central American and Caribbean youth football championship to be held in Honduras in November. The Salvadoran president made his statement to the influential daily newspaper LA TRIBUNA of this capital, noting that he is eager to accept any official invitation in that regard "in order to go to Honduras to reaffirm the spirit of brotherhood between the two nations and governments." Romero added that a very positive breakthrough toward enhancing friendship and understanding between the two countries has been made in sports.

"Proof of this is the recent participation of the children's baseball and swimming delegations from El Salvador in two major international tournaments held in Tegucigalpa," he stressed. The news is all the more important because it is a known fact that Honduras and El Salvador have had no diplomatic relations since July 1969, when they waged a war, known as the "Football War" or the "100 Hours War."

NICARAGUA

FSLN REJECTS U.S. MEDIATION, ROLE OF MILITARY ADVISERS

PA1802477 Paris AFP in Spanish 0027 GMT 18 Oct 78 PA

[Text] San Jose, Costa Rica, 17 Oct (AFP)--The Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN) condemned here today the mediation of the U.S. Government in Nicaragua's political crisis. However, it did not repudiate the contacts that have taken place between the Broad Opposition Front [FAO] and the OAS mediation commission. The Sandinists reiterated that any settlement reached in Nicaragua must be based on two points: The expropriation of Gen Anastasio Somoza's property and the establishment of a new national army which includes the Sandinist forces.

In assessing the guerrilla actions carried out in Nicaragua last September, the Sandinists said that attacks by the Somozist air force caused over 6,000 deaths among the civilian population. "We accuse as accomplices in this genocide," "the Sandinist communique added, the reactionary sectors of the armies of El Salvador and Guatemala which immediately sent two Mustang aircraft and over 500 soldiers" to help Somoza.

The Sandinists also accused the U.S. Government of maintaining a corps of military advisers in Nicaragua, made up of Col Frank Mathews and Maj George Allpoit of the army, Lt Col Jack Firse of the Air Force, Lt Col James McCoy, the military attache of the U.S. Embassy in Managua, and an unidentified navy official.

The guerrillas maintained that the Nicaraguan economy is bankrupt due, among other things, to a loss of over $625 million in capital in the first 9 months of this year and a reduction in collected taxes. According to the Sandinist communique, only $10 million in taxes were collected in the same period. Finally, the communique announced that Eden Pastora--Commander Cero, who led the occupation of the National Palace in Managua in August--participated in the guerrilla actions staged on Nicaragua's southern border in September.

"Today," the Sandinists conclude, "we are preparing for a new and definitive offensive." For this offensive they claim to have "anticraft weapons and better trained forces."

FAO WILL CONTINUE EFFORTS TO SOLVE NATION'S POLITICAL CRISIS

PA1804207Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0209 GMT 18 Oct 78 PA

[Text] Managua, 17 Oct (AFP)--The Broad Opposition Front (FAO) decided this afternoon to continue its efforts to find a solution to Nicaragua's political problem in order to prevent the nation from again being caught in a period of violence like that of last September. FAO representatives reached this political decision in private. A little after that a delegation met with mediators William Bowdler from the United States, Adm Emilio Jimenez from the Dominican Republic and Alfredo Obiols from Guatemala.

The mediators have been working in Nicaragua for the past 3 weeks and last night held another meeting with President Anastasio Somoza. FAO spokesmen indicated this afternoon that they are not holding any talks with President Somoza.

The FAO reiterated that it maintains its 16 demands, among which are the separation of Somoza and his family from Nicaragua's political and military activities and the establishment of a government in which all national sectors are represented. The other 14 points constitute a minimum program which the FAO considers indispensable "to laying the foundations of true democratization in the country."

Meanwhile, Somoza insists that he will not give up power until the end of his term in May 1981 and on several occasions has publicly threatened those who wish to alter his decision and want to oust him from power. In view of this, FAO spokesmen have said that President Somoza's position is weak and that with his attitude he is only trying to conceal that the situation is delicate.

At the end of its meeting today the FAO issued a four-point declaration in which it says:

1. The political commission that has held talks with the mediators from the United States, the Dominican Republic and Guatemala has always had the FAO's full authorization.

2. The basic demand that the Somoza family leave power in order to give way to a government in which all national sectors are represented and which implements the 16 points has been unanimously approved.

3. The FAO supports its political commission which, it reiterates, was unanimously appointed.

4. Government news media have unleashed an insidious campaign against the three members of the FAO's political commission, Rafael Cordova, Alfonso Robelo and Sergio Ramirez, which could lead to physical violence against them. In view of this, the present regime is being made responsible for any attack against them.

OPPOSITION ACCUSED OF SEEKING INTERVENTION, COMMUNIST LINKS

PA1716467 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1250 GMT 17 Oct 78 PA

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] In Nicaragua, the opposition has aimed every effort at creating a climate for intervention and democratic disorientation. Its continual revolutionary endeavors, its efforts to incite rebellion, its terrorist acts and its mass rallies are the manifestation of a movement that skillfully conceals the aims pursued by international communist leaders. They argue that they fight dictatorships and that they are true defenders of democracy. However, these assertions take on the earmarks of speculation in light of fundamental overall realities and special problems of the American continent.

Nicaragua has proved its democratic stance, its devotion and fervor for the Americas' political unity and its desire for continental cooperation. However, its political problem must not be judged on the basis of the constant preaching of those indoctrinated by the extreme left, who claim that its government does not fit into a constitutional or democratic mold.

We are engaged--and not with rudeness on the part of the opposition--in a political struggle in which the ideological adversary resorts to slander and subterfuge and pursues a secret political goal which we are unable to unmask but which we can perceive. It brings chaos into the country to implant its vengeful and extremist doctrines alongside Moscow's communism.

FIDEL CASTRO PRESIDES OVER PLANNING CONFERENCE CLOSING SESSION

FL171501Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 17 Oct 78 FL

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, first secretary of the PCC and president of the Councils of State and Ministers, yesterday presided over the closing session of the national preparatory seminar on drafting development plans for the country. Attending the event, which was held at the Karl Marx Theater, were Politburo members Ramiro Valdes Menendez, Guillermo Garcia Frias, Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, Osvaldo Dorticos Torrado, Armando Hart Davalos and Jose Ramon Machado Ventura. Others attending included Antonio Perez Herrero, member of the PCC Central Committee Secretariat, vice presidents of the Council of Ministers, ministers and leaders of political and mass organizations.

The closing session of the national preparatory seminar on drafting the future plans for the country met under the following slogan: When the party gives us this economic program we will have a great banner in our hands with which to work enthusiastically and with a clear vision of the future.

The closing remarks were made by Humberto Perez, member of the Central Committee and minister-president of the Central Planning Board. Humberto Perez stated that to reach the goals set and to comply with the agreements of the first congress and with Fidel's directives we are obliged to develop a planning program and to draw up the 5-year and yearly plans within this long range planning project. Humberto Perez stated that the time period for drafting this strategy is five years, divided into two stages. [Havana Domestic Service in Spanish at 1145 GMT on 17 October in a similar report states that the national preparatory seminar met to draft "economic and social development plans up to the year 2000."]

PCC LEADERS CHAIR SANTIAGO DE CUBA CTC CONFERENCE

FL172005Y Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 17 Oct 78 FL

[Text] Jesus Montane Oropesa, chief of the PCC Central Committee mass organizations department, Roberto Veiga, secretary general of the Central Organization of Cuban Workers [CTC], and Jose Ramon Balaguer Cabrera, first party secretary in Santiago de Cuba Province, all members of the PCC Central Committee, as well as other leaders presided over the CTC conference held in Santiago de Cuba Province to end the labor congress' preparatory process at the provincial level.

Ricardo Martinez, who was reelected CTC secretary general in that province, read the report on the accomplishments of the past 18 months in which it is announced that the CTC and its trade unions have been awarded the 20th Granma anniversary flag and the "Achievers of the 11th Festival Goals" distinction. The report also notes the 7.5 million hours of volunteer work contributed to industries, agricultural work and services in general.

The 342 delegates attending the conference elected the members of the provincial committee who, during their first meeting, reelected Ricardo Martinez and Angelis Mena as first and second secretaries, respectively, and elected the 11 members of the secretariat. Among the main agreements adopted by that important meeting, it was decided to send a letter to Commander in Chief Fidel Castro stating that the Santiago de Cuba workers will fulfill all pledges in honor of the 20th anniversary of the triumph of the revolution. A special harvest resolution on the trade union movement's specific objectives for an efficient sugar harvest was also approved in the meeting.

In his closing remarks Jose Ramon Balaguer congratulated the province's workers and trade union leaders for the successes achieved in this period and called for increasing productivity and giving preferential attention to the sugar and coffee harvests and other agricultural tasks. Likewise, he urged the participants to intensify efforts in economic tasks, cultural development and training and, in addition, to strengthen labor discipline and socialist emulation.

SOVIET DEPUTY CULTURE MINISTER ARRIVES IN HAVANA

FL1718047Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 17 Oct 78 FL

[Excerpt] Yuriy Borabash, USSR first deputy minister of culture, arrived last night at Jose Marti International Airport in Rancho Boyeros, where he was received by Antonio Nunez Jimenez, Cuban vice minister of culture. The distinguished visitor will remain in our country for a few days in response to an invitation from the Culture Ministry.

LIBYAN TRADE MINISTER RECEIVED IN HAVANA

FL1720147Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2002 GMT 17 Oct 78 FL

[Text] Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, member of the PCC Politburo and vice president of the Councils of State and Ministers, has received in Havana City the delegation headed by Abu Bakr 'Ali ash-Sharif, trade minister of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah. The Libyan official was accompanied by 'Ali Sunni al-Muntasir, ambassador of the fraternal country to Cuba who is member of the delegation invited by the State Committee for Economic Cooperation. Hector Rodriguez Llompart, member of the PCC Central Committee and minister-president of the State Committee for Economic Cooperation, and Cuban Ambassador to Libya Luis Marisi participated in the meeting for the Cuban side. During the meeting, Carlos Rafael Rodriguez and the Libyan official examined the current status of economic, scientific and technical cooperation between the two nations.

FERNANDEZ PONT MEETS WITH BULGARIAN FOREIGN TRADE MINISTER

FL1712177Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 17 Oct 78 FL

[Text] Marcelo Fernandez Pont and Khristo Khristov, Cuban and Bulgarian foreign trade ministers, respectively, yesterday began official talks in Sofia on the future development of trade between the two nations. The trade protocol for the present year was reviewed at the meeting and they outlined the basic points of the document to be signed by the two ministries for 1979. As part of his official activities in Bulgaria, Marcelo Fernandez Pont has met with Tomcho Chalmurov, minister of machine building, and with more than 20 chairmen of Bulgarian foreign trade enterprises.

BRIEFS

MEXICAN ANTONIO MACEO BRIGADE--Cuban emigres who live in Mexico have formed the Antonio Maceo Brigade, whose objectives, according to its organizers, will be to renew, maintain and strengthen their ties of Cuban nationality and promote rapprochement with the Cuban revolutionary process. Antonio Maceo Brigades have begun to operate in Puerto Rico, Spain and Venezuela following the example of the brigade initially organized by Cuban youths who live in the United States. [Excerpt] [Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1908 GMT 16 Oct 78 FL]

CARIBBEAN AFFAIRS

CARICOM STATES REPORT AGRICULTURAL SURPLUSES

FL1714445Y Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 12 Oct 78 p 8 FL

[Text] Five Caribbean Common Market (CARICOM) territories have declared surplus agricultural crops for export within the region, the CARICOM secretariat has reported.

Antigua has indicated a possible surplus of early cucumbers this month, Barbados will have reduced surplus quantities of carrots, and quantities of cabbage.

Dominica has monthly surpluses of oranges, up to 15,000 pounds, 20,000 pounds of grapefruit and 10,000 pounds of plantains up to next month, while Guyana currently has quantities of plantains.

St Vincent has reported drought conditions restricted present ability to export, and its declared surpluses will have to be reduced, the secretariat's latest "CARICOM MARKETING" newsletter said.

BARBADOS

JAPANESE EXPLOITATION OF FISHERIES PROTESTED

FL1616955Y Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 11 Oct 78 p 1 FL

[Text] Barbados External Affairs Minister Mr Henry Forde has said that the Caribbean might take economic reprisals against Japan if that country failed to heed warnings against exploiting the region's fisheries resources.

In his address last week to the U.N. General Assembly, Mr Forde drew international attention to the action of Japan, in particular, and the other rich nations which exploited the region's scarce sea resources without making any contribution to the economic well-being of the region.

And he said shortly after his arrival in Barbados yesterday from the U.N.: "...If Japan continues its actions I will be consulting--as we are at the moment--with the other Caribbean countries about taking economic reprisals..."

Mr Forde said that the South Koreans have been fishing for a while in some of our waters but not to the same extent that the Japanese have been doing.

"But we are watching that too," he said.

Commenting on the reaction to this area of his address, Mr Forde told a press conference in the Grantley Adams International Airport's VIP lounge: "Everybody said it ought to be said."

But he added: "I think that diplomacy has got to the stage that one does not like to speak the truth in public. A small country like Barbados must speak its mind.

"We must speak the truth always because that is the only thing we have to put forward in the world council as any significant factor in international affairs."

Pointing out that the time for pretence was past, Mr Forde said: "If we have to speak to Japan we will do so forthrightly and our actions will be tailored to suit."

TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

SUPPORT FOR BELIZEAN TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY REITERATED

FL1715057Y Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 11 Oct 78 p 1 FL

[Text] United Nations (REUTER-CANA) Trinidad and Tobago yesterday expressed serious concern at what it called "the pressures which have been brought to bear on the government of Belize to cede part of its national territory" as the price for securing independence.

"The Government of Belize has quite properly rejected this attempt to destroy its territorial integrity," External Affairs Minister John Donaldson told the General Assembly.

He was referring to Guatemala's claim to Belize, which has delayed independence for Britain's last remaining colony in Central America.

"The Government of Trinidad and Tobago reaffirms its support for the just aspirations of the people of Belize for self-determination and independence...and for recognition of its territorial integrity," Mr Donaldson declared, urging the parties to the dispute to continue their negotiations.

The minister, who spoke at length on the need to work towards a new, more equitable, international economic order, said discussions had held out little hope that a "more meaningful share of world shipping tonnages" would be allocated to developing countries.

"It is the view of my government that the circumstances where developing countries own 61 per cent of the bulk cargoes but a mere five per cent of the shipping tonnage cannot be allowed to persist," Mr Donaldson continued.

Equity demanded that there be a more reasonable share in the bulk cargo market, both liquid and dry, and that international lending institutions adopt more flexible attitudes to financing the purchase of ships by developing countries.

He also said developed countries should lend their support to the pooling of resources to enable developing countries to purchase or construct ships and "thereby facilitate the transfer to developing countries of a greater share of world shipping."

CRUDE OIL MAY BE PURCHASED FROM NIGERIA

FL1619007Y Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 11 Oct 78 p 1 FL

[Excerpt] Trinidad and Tobago may soon start buying crude oil from Nigeria for refining. Negotiations towards this are reported to have been started between the governments of Nigeria and Trinidad and Tobago.

Nigeria's new high commissioner to Trinidad and Tobago, Mr Olu Adesola, told newsmen yesterday it was Nigeria's great wish to develop trade and closer cultural ties with Trinidad and Tobago. He said Nigeria was very interested in local asphalt for their road construction and it also wanted to develop a two-way tourist trade. More Nigerians, he said, were being encouraged to visit Trinidad and Tobago, and in turn he would like to have more Trinidad and Tobago citizens visit his country. He hinted that Nigeria Airways may soon establish links with the Caribbean to provide for easier communication between the region and Nigeria.